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ABSTRACT

This newsletter, distributed by the National Clearinghouse on Aging, is designed to provide information about statistical programs and recent publications to the National Network on Aging as well as individuals and organizations working in the field of aging. The contents of this issue focus on: (1) a summary of estimates of the United States population by age group, sex, and race; (2) a comparative analysis of participation in adult education by persons age 55 and older in 1969, 1972, and 1975; and (3) the 1978 costs of retired couples' household budgets. Additionally, information about two recent publications, i.e., "Inventory of Federal Statistical Programs Relating to Older Persons" and "Social and Economic Characteristics of the Older Population: 1978," is provided. (Author/HLM)

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New Report on the Elderly:

Statistical Notes, Number 4, from the National Clearinghouse on Aging

April 1980

CG 014518

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STATISTICAL NOTES

From the National Clearinghouse on Aging

No. 4 April 1980

Statistical Notes is issued and distributed without charge by the National Clearinghouse on Aging on an occasional basis. The goal of this newsletter is to provide information about statistical programs and publications of interest to the National Network on Aging and the many other persons and organizations working in the field of aging. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, or would like to submit questions, suggestions, or appropriate contributions, please write to:

Statistical Notes
National Clearinghouse on Aging
Administration on Aging
Washington, DC 20201

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NEW REPORT ON ELDERLY FROM CENSUS BUREAU

The Bureau of the Census recently issued a report entitled "Social and Economic Characteristics of the Older Population: 1978." This report is a summary of national data on the elderly population from the Bureau's March 1978 Current Population Survey and several other Federal statistical surveys and programs. The report is organized into 13 topical chapters with text and tables on the following subjects: 1) population, 2) family and marital status, 3) institutions, 4) nativity and parentage, 5) geographic mobility and residence, 6) education, 7) voting and registration, 8) labor force and employment, 9) income, 10) poverty, 11) housing, 12) health, and 13) crime victimization.

The full citation for this report is: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-23, No. 85, "Social and Economic Characteristics of the Older Population: 1978." The price of this report is $2.25. Copies are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

ADMINISTRATION ON AGING • OFFICE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

JUN 13 1980

1979 ESTIMATES OF ELDERLY POPULATION FOR U.S.

The number of persons 60+ years old estimated to be residing in the U.S. as of July 1, 1979 was 34.2 million, or 15.6% of the resident population of all ages. This age group has increased in size by 20% since 1970, compared to only 8% for the nation's population as a whole. During this period, the number of elderly females has grown faster than males (22% vs. 17%), and the number of elderly Blacks has grown faster than Whites (25% vs. 19%).

These are a few of the highlights from a recent Bureau of the Census report containing estimates of the U.S. population by age, sex, and race as of July 1, 1979. These estimates were prepared by updating 1970 census counts using data on births, deaths, and immigration that have occurred between 1970 and 1979. Estimates for three population groups are shown in the report: 1) resident population, which includes the civilian resident populations of the 50 States and the District of Columbia plus members of the Armed Forces stationed in these jurisdictions, 2) total population including Armed Forces overseas, which includes members of Armed Forces stationed in foreign countries, Puerto Rico, and the outlying areas under United States sovereignty or jurisdiction, and 3) civilian population, which includes the resident population less members of the Armed Forces stationed in the United States. "Resident population" is the population most frequently used by the Bureau of the Census in its annual estimates of the population for State and local areas, as well as reports from the 1970 Census of Population. At age 55 and above, estimates based on the three definitions are similar (particularly if the figures are rounded to the nearest thousand) because very few persons in these ages are actively serving in the Armed Forces.

The estimates in this report are subdivided by single years of age (from less than 1 year to 84 years of age, followed by a total for 85 years and over) and are further cross-classified by sex and race: total, White, Black and other races (combined), and Black. The data for single years of age are aggregated into subtotals for 5-year age groups, and additional subtotals for selected age groups (e.g., 16+ and 65+) are also shown.

The National Clearinghouse on Aging has prepared a summary table from this report which presents estimates of the resident population by sex and race for persons of all ages and nine age groups (see page 3). The table shows the number of persons in each age, sex, and race group, followed by a percent distribution of each sex-race subgroup by age, and the percent change between 1970 and 1979 for each group.

The full name of the report is Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 870, "Estimates of the Population of the United States, by Age, Sex, and Race: 1976 to 1979." Copies are available for $1.75 at any Department of Commerce district office or can be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

ESTIMATES OF THE RESIDENT POPULATION OF SELECTED AGE GROUPS, BY SEX AND RACE: JULY 1, 1979

(Percent change since 1970 was computed with census counts as of April 1, 1970)

Age	All races 1/			White			Black		
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
NUMBER (in thousands)									
Total, all ages ...	220,099	107,006	113,093	189,968	92,661	97,307	25,863	12,294	13,570
Selected age groups:									
40 to 64	55,407	26,647	28,760	49,131	23,764	25,367	5,397	2,483	2,912
50+	57,344	25,598	31,746	51,615	23,036	28,579	5,003	2,213	2,790
55+	45,610	19,932	25,678	41,204	17,983	23,220	3,872	1,686	2,187
60+	34,243	14,504	19,739	31,001	13,095	17,905	2,855	1,215	1,641
62+	30,239	12,614	17,625	27,381	11,382	15,999	2,515	1,058	1,457
65+	24,658	10,017	14,641	22,331	9,024	13,306	2,041	848	1,194
70+	15,970	6,152	9,818	14,584	5,572	9,014	1,178	478	702
75+	9,386	3,375	6,011	8,578	3,052	5,528	668	257	413
85+	2,332	720	1,612	2,091	637	1,455	209	70	140
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
Total, all ages ...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Selected age groups:									
40 to 64	25.2	24.9	25.4	25.9	25.6	26.1	20.9	20.2	21.5
50+	26.1	23.9	28.1	27.2	24.9	29.4	19.3	18.0	20.6
55+	20.7	18.6	22.7	21.7	19.4	23.9	15.0	13.7	16.1
60+	15.6	13.6	17.5	16.3	14.1	18.4	11.0	9.9	12.1
62+	13.7	11.8	15.6	14.4	12.3	16.4	9.7	8.6	10.7
65+	11.2	9.4	12.9	11.8	9.7	13.7	7.9	6.9	8.8
70+	7.3	5.7	8.7	7.7	6.0	9.3	4.6	3.9	5.2
75+	4.3	3.2	5.3	4.5	3.3	5.7	2.6	2.1	3.0
85+	1.1	0.7	1.4	1.1	0.7	1.5	0.8	0.6	1.0
PERCENT CHANGE, 1970 to 1979									
Total, all ages ...	8.3	8.2	8.4	6.7	6.6	6.7	14.5	14.4	14.7
Selected age groups:									
40 to 64	2.9	3.2	2.7	1.6	2.0	1.2	9.7	9.7	9.6
50+	15.4	13.7	16.9	14.4	12.8	15.7	20.8	18.5	22.6
55+	18.2	16.1	19.9	17.4	15.4	18.9	22.8	19.7	25.3
60+	19.8	17.0	21.9	18.8	16.2	20.8	25.3	21.0	28.6
62+	21.4	18.3	23.7	20.4	17.4	22.6	28.0	23.2	31.7
65+	23.5	19.7	26.2	22.2	18.5	24.9	32.2	26.8	36.3
70+	23.1	17.4	27.0	21.9	16.1	25.9	28.5	21.9	33.7
75+	24.6	15.3	30.6	23.0	13.5	29.1	33.3	23.6	41.0
85+	65.6	47.2	75.4	61.7	43.8	71.2	104.9	79.5	122.2

1/ Includes races other than White or Black (e.g., American Indian, Asian) which are not shown separately.
SOURCE: Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-25, No. 870, "Estimates of the Population of the United States, by Age, Sex, and Race: 1976 to 1979," table 2.

PARTICIPATION IN ADULT EDUCATION BY OLDER PERSONS

The number of persons 55 years of age and older participating in adult education has been increasing in recent years, according to the report Participation in Adult Education, Final Report, 1975, issued by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Between the years ending May 1969 and 1975, the number of persons in that age group participating in adult education rose from 1 million to 1.6 million. The number grew at an average annual rate of 8%, or by 55% for the 6-year period. The total population 55+ years old, on the other hand, only grew by 2% annually, or by 12% for the whole period. As a result, the relative number of older participants to the total population 55+ years old rose from 2.9% in 1969 to 4.0% in 1975 (see table below).

PARTICIPATION IN ADULT EDUCATION BY PERSONS
55 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER: 1975, 1972, 1969

(Noninstitutional civilian population. Excludes participants who were also full-time students in high school or college.)

Year ending May	Number of participants 17+ years old (000's)	Participants 55+ years old		
		Number (000's)	Percent of total participants 17+	Percent of all persons 55+
1975	17,059	1,627	9.5	4.0
1972 1/	15,734	1,363	8.7	3.5
1969 1/	13,041	1,048	8.0	2.9
1969-1975:				
Percent increase ..	30.8	55.2	(X)	(X)
Average annual percent increase	4.6	7.6	(X)	(X)

(X) Not applicable.
1/ Data for 1969 and 1972 include a small number of participants 35+ years old who were also full-time high school or college students.
SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics, DHEW, Participation in Adult Education, Final Report, 1975.

The reports in the Participation in Adult Education series are based on the Survey of Adult Education, conducted as a supplement to the 1969, 1972, and 1975 Current Population Surveys by the Bureau of the Census under contract with NCES. Adult education was defined as "organized learning to meet the unique needs of persons beyond compulsory school age who have terminated or interrupted their formal schooling. Courses taken by full-time students in high school or college as a part of their regular curriculum were not to be reported as adult education. Courses or activities completed, dropped, or currently being taken in adult education were to be reported."

In the May 1975 survey, all persons 17 years or older were asked if they were full-time students in high school or college. Demographic characteristics were tabulated for full-time students in high school or college who also participated in adult education. Both demographic and course characteristics were tabulated for participants in adult education who were not full-time students in high school or college (keeping continuity with the 1969 and 1972 surveys). The 1969 and 1972 surveys assumed that persons 35 years of age and older were not full-time students in high school or college, and these persons were not asked about their full-time student status. Therefore, some persons in this age bracket were counted as participants in adult education although they were full-time students in high school or college. Because the 1975 survey identified only 8,000 persons 55+ years old who were participants in adult education as well as full-time high school or college students, the effect of this difference in coverage appears to be negligible.

Some of the cross-tabulations that were given in the tables in the 1969 and 1972 Participation in Adult Education final reports were not included in the tables in the 1975 report. Therefore, some data for 1972 are presented in the highlights below. The 1975 data tapes make it possible to update the 1972 figures for those who want to make 1975 machine tabulations. NCES anticipates tables for the 1978 report in the near future. These will give detailed tabulations on older adults.

Some of the highlights of the 1975 and 1972 reports follow. "Pre-elderly" refers to persons 55-64 years of age, and "elderly" refers to those 65 years and older.

- In 1975, older women (55+) were more likely to have participated in adult education than men of the same age. About 4.3% or 984,000 women 55+ years old participated in adult education compared with 3.6% or 642,000 men of the same age (see table on page 6).

- In the same year, about 1.5% of all Blacks 55+ years of age participated in adult education. Among older Whites, the proportion was 4.2%.

- In 1972, older participants were twice as likely to have less than a high school education than younger participants (17-54 years). Of the 1.4 million participants who were 55+ years old, about 25% had less

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PARTICIPATION IN ADULT EDUCATION BY PERSONS 17 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BY AGE, SEX, AND RACE: 1975

(Noninstitutional civilian population. Excludes participants who were also full-time students in high school or college.)

Sex and race	17+	55+		
		Total	55-64	65+
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (000's)				
Total	17,059	1,627	1,129	498
Male	8,027	642	482	160
Female	9,032	984	647	337
White	15,739	1,556	1,087	469
Black	1,031	51	30	21
Other races	289	20	12	8
PARTICIPATION RATE 1/				
Total	11.6	4.0	5.8	2.3
Male	11.7	3.6	5.3	1.8
Female	11.6	4.3	6.3	2.7
White	12.1	4.2	6.2	2.4
Black	6.9	1.5	1.8	1.2
Other races	13.4	5.2	6.7	3.9
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION				
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Male	47.1	39.5	42.7	32.1
Female	52.9	60.5	57.3	67.7
White	92.3	95.6	96.3	94.2
Black	6.0	3.1	2.7	4.2
Other races	1.7	1.2	1.1	1.6

1/ Participants as a percent of all persons in specified age-sex-race group.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, National Center for Education Statistics, Participation in Adult Education, Final Report, 1975.

than a high school education compared to 12% for younger participants. In the older group, 30% had graduated from high school, 20% had some college training, and 25% were college graduates.

- Among the educational activities pursued by pre-elderly participants in 1972, 39% were classified as occupational training and 17% were social and recreational lessons. For elderly participants, about one-fifth of the activities were related to each of the following: community issues; occupational training; personal and family living; and social and recreational lessons. For younger participants, 42% of the activities were occupational training and 24% were general education.

- Among the reasons cited by pre-elderly persons for participating in adult education in 1972, 32% were related to job improvement or advancement and 28% were personal or family interests. For elderly persons, almost half (46%) of the reasons were personal or family interests.

- The older the participant, the fewer courses the participant took or fewer activities the participant engaged in. About 80% of pre-elderly and elderly participants in 1972 took one course or engaged in one activity, compared to 67% for younger persons.

- Classroom teaching was the method of instruction most frequently utilized by older participants in 1972. About one-third of the courses were of this method, followed by one-fourth for both lecture series and workshops or discussion groups.

- Both pre-elderly and elderly participants used about the same number of instructional hours in the year ending May 1972. Excluding correspondence courses, older (55+) students attended a median of 34 hours in the year, compared to 50 hours for younger students.

- Proportionately few of the pre-elderly and elderly dropped a course in 1972. About 7% of the pre-elderly and 11% of the elderly participants dropped one or more courses, similar to the 10% rate for younger participants.

- As expected, older students did not often participate in adult education to receive a certificate or degree. About 68% of the courses taken by pre-elderly students and 83% of the courses of elderly students in 1972 were not for credit, compared to only half (52%) for younger students.

- Regardless of age, about half of all participants in 1972 either paid for their own education or received help from their family. Among the pre-elderly, 18% of the courses were paid for by their employer.

For the elderly, 15% of their courses were paid for by private organizations and 13% by public funding.

- For elderly and pre-elderly participants, the most frequent sponsor or administrator of adult education offerings was community organizations (32% and 19%, respectively). For younger participants, the most frequent sponsor was a 4-year college or university (20%).

A limited number of free single copies of Participation in Adult Education, Final Report, 1975, as well as the 1972 and 1969 reports, can be obtained by writing or calling the National Center for Education Statistics, Information Service, Attn: Ms. Tashjian, Washington, DC 20202 (telephone 202-245-8352).

1978 COSTS OF THREE BUDGETS FOR RETIRED COUPLES

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the estimated cost of the lower level budget for an urban retired couple, excluding personal income taxes, amounted to $5,514 in the autumn of 1978 (see table on page 9). This amount represented an increase of 8.5% since autumn 1977, slightly above the increases of 8.2% and 7.7% for the intermediate and higher budgets, respectively. The costs of food and medical care experienced the largest increases--about 13% for each of the three budget levels. Housing continues to represent the largest component of each of the three budgets--about one-third.

About 1.1 million or 18% of all elderly couples reported incomes below the lower budget level in 1978 (see table on page 11). The proportions with incomes below the intermediate and higher budget levels were 38% and 62%, respectively. The number of couples with incomes below the three budget levels has remained essentially unchanged between 1971 and 1978. These income data refer to urban and rural couples combined, whereas the three budgets reflect the expenditure patterns of urban couples only. The costs of equivalent budgets for rural couples, if available, would probably be lower than the urban budgets. Thus, the numbers and proportion of elderly couples with incomes below the three budget levels in the table are somewhat overstated.

These budgets represent the autumn (Sept.-Nov.) 1978 prices of three hypothetical lists of goods and services specified in the mid-1960's. A retired couple is defined as a husband aged 65 and over and his wife. They are presumed to be in good health, self-supporting, and living in an urban area. The budgets were updated by applying the change in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) between

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SUMMARY OF ANNUAL BUDGETS FOR A RETIRED COUPLE AT THREE LEVELS OF LIVING, URBAN UNITED STATES: AUTUMN 1978

Component	Lower budget	Intermediate budget	Higher budget
COST			
Total budget	$5,514	$7,846	$11,596
Total family consumption	5,276	7,374	10,721
Food	1,725	2,299	2,884
Housing	1,831	2,641	4,139
Transportation	360	701	1,299
Clothing	220	369	568
Personal care	156	229	335
Medical care	765(p)	769(p)	774(p)
Other family consumption	220	366	722
Other items	237	472	875
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION			
Total budget	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total family consumption	95.7	94.0	92.5
Food	31.3	29.3	24.9
Housing	33.2	33.7	35.7
Transportation	6.5	8.9	11.2
Clothing	4.0	4.7	4.9
Personal care	2.8	2.9	2.9
Medical care	13.9(p)	9.8(p)	6.7(p)
Other family consumption	4.0	4.7	6.2
Other items	4.3	6.0	7.5
PERCENT CHANGE, AUTUMN 1977 TO 1978			
Total budget	8.5	8.2	7.7
Total family consumption	8.5	8.2	7.8
Food	12.4	13.0	12.9
Housing	4.9	4.9	5.2
Transportation	6.8	6.5	6.9
Clothing	2.8	2.5	2.3
Personal care	6.8	7.0	7.0
Medical care	13.2(p)	13.1(p)	13.0(p)
Other family consumption	5.3	5.5	5.1
Other items	8.2	8.3	7.1

(p) Contains preliminary estimates for "out-of-pocket" Medicare costs.
NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.
SOURCE: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Release 78-588, Three Budgets for a Retired Couple, Autumn 1978.

autumn 1977 and 1978 for individual areas to the autumn 1977 budget costs for each main class of goods and services.

The autumn 1977 budgets were described in Issue No. 3 of Statistical Notes (Jan. 1979). Since that date, revised 1977 costs for the budgets have become available. These revisions reflect the upward revisions in the "out-of-pocket" costs for Medicare in the medical care component. The "other items" component was also affected slightly by the revisions. The estimated costs of the other components did not change. The revised figures for 1977 are as follows:

Component	Lower budget, 1977	Intermediate budget, 1977	Higher budget, 1977
Total budget	$5,081	$7,249	$10,763
Total consumption .	4,863	6,814	9,946
Medical care	676	680	685
"Other items"	219	435	817

This information is contained in BLS release, "Three Budgets for a Retired Couple, Autumn 1978." The release contains tables showing the annual costs and indexes of comparative costs for each component in the three budgets for 39 selected metropolitan areas, 4 nonmetropolitan regions, and Anchorage, Alaska. This release (USDL 78-588) may be obtained from any BLS Regional Office or by writing to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC 20212.

INVENTORY OF FEDERAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMS

The National Clearinghouse on Aging has released a publication entitled Inventory of Federal Statistical Programs Relating to Older Persons. The information in this document was compiled by a Federal interagency task force of 19 Departments and Agencies. The document contains information on 111 statistical programs which provide data on the elderly population. The programs covered by the inventory include censuses, sample surveys, administrative records of social service and other programs, estimation and projection programs, and others. The inventory is intended to give users an overview of Federal statistical efforts in the field of aging, with sufficient information about these efforts so that users can efficiently search for sources of needed data. An index of data items included in all 111 programs is appended.

Among the types of information presented for each statistical program are 1) survey or program title, 2) purpose of data collection, 3) scope and method of data collection, 4) limitations and reliability of data, 5) level of geography, 6) age detail, 7) frequency of data collection, 8) method of data storage, 9) availability of unpublished data, 10) time lag between

(continued on page 12)

ELDERLY COUPLES WITH INCOMES BELOW THE COSTS OF
THREE BUDGETS FOR AN URBAN RETIRED COUPLE: 1971-78

Subject	1978	1977[1/]	1976	1975	1974	1973[1/]	1972[2/]	1971[2/]
COST OF BUDGET								
Lower	$5,514	$5,081	$4,695	$4,501	$4,228	$3,791	$3,442	$3,319
Intermediate	$7,846	$7,249	$6,738	$6,465	$6,041	$5,442	$4,959	$4,771
Higher	$11,596	$10,763	$10,048	$9,598	$8,969	$8,072	$7,426	$7,158
ELDERLY COUPLES[3/]								
Total (000's)	5,902	5,641	5,541	5,583	5,471	5,280	5,049	5,011
With income below--								
Lower budget:								
Number (000's)	1,082	1,026	988	1,123	1,204	1,172	1,111	1,323
Percent of total	18.3	18.2	17.8	20.1	22.0	22.2	22.0	26.4
Intermediate budget:								
Number (000's)	2,213	2,249	2,159	2,313	2,396	2,344	2,237	2,395
Percent of total	37.5	39.9	39.0	41.4	43.8	44.4	44.3	47.8
Higher budget:								
Number (000's)	3,657	3,601	3,449	3,633	3,720	3,585	3,454	3,573
Percent of total	62.0	63.8	62.2	65.1	68.0	67.9	68.4	71.3

1/ Includes revised estimates for medical care and "other items."
2/ Personal income taxes were deleted from 1971 and 1972 budgets to permit comparison with budgets for later years, in which such taxes were not deleted.
3/ Two-person husband-wife families with a husband 65+ years old.
SOURCES: Budget data from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Three Budgets for a Retired Couple, reports for each year shown above. Income data from Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No.'s 85, 90, 97, 101, 105, 114, 118, and unpublished data.

collection and release of data, 11) publication program, and 12) person or unit to be contacted for further information.

While the limited supply lasts, free single copies of the inventory may be obtained by writing to Statistical Notes, National Clearinghouse on Aging, Administration on Aging, Washington, DC 20201.

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